

# **FINAL REPORT**

## **METROPOLITAN GREENSPACES RESTORATION PROJECT**



**GLENN OTTO PARK – SANDY RIVER**

**CITY OF TROUTDALE**

**November 1999 – April 2000**



## **METROPOLITAN GREENSPACES RESTORATION PROJECT 1999-2000**

### **Glenn Otto Park – Sandy River**

#### **City of Troutdale**

#### **Project Description**

This stream restoration project further implemented the City's goal to restore all the stream banks associated with Glenn Otto Park. Previous projects focused on the West Side of the park along Beaver Creek. This project location is the East Side of the park along the Sandy River. The stream banks along the Sandy River were overgrown with Himalayan Blackberry vines. Removing this exotic, invasive vine in order to release persisting native plants was the primary focus for this project. Planting included additional native plants to fill in areas left bare from the long established Himalayan Blackberry.

#### **Goals and Benefits of the Project**

Removal of the non-native Himalayan Blackberry and establishment of native plants contributes to water quality and wildlife habitat improvements. Soils become loose and erodable when covered by Himalayan Blackberry due to its' non-fibrous root structure. Blackberry removal and native plant re-establishment improves soil stability. Wildlife habitat improvements result from changing a mono-culture into a diverse plant community. The increased number of plant species provides a wider variety of food and cover. Removing dense berryvine thickets also contributed to wildlife movement through the area. Wildlife and bird sightings increased which adds to public awareness and enjoyment of the area. The project enhanced natural resources, wildlife habitat and recreational values.

#### **Work Tasks and Timelines**

Grant award notification	November 1998
Grant Contract executed	February 1999
Approval Letter from U.S. Fish & Wildlife	March 1999
Staffing change for Project Management	May 1999
Contact MYC & CRUE labor sources	June 1999

Order plants  
Sign contracts with MYC & CRUE  
Receive native plants  
Fariss High School Students collect native plants  
MYC & CRUE work on Blackberry removal

June 1999  
September 1999  
September 1999  
October 1999  
October through  
December 1999  
December 1999

MYC & CRUE plant part of native plants  
Earth Day 2000 volunteers clear berryvines  
& plant remaining plants  
Monitoring & maintenance  
Report & billing

April 2000  
ongoing  
May 2000

### **Project Budget**

The total project cost was \$6,244.35. Labor for berryvine removal and native plantings was \$1,800.00. Plants were \$750.60. Volunteers represent a \$2,356.25 value based on the number of hours worked at minimum wage. Project management cost \$1,337.50. Refer to the project reimbursement form for a detail listing of project costs. The project made less use of MYC and CRUE and more use of volunteers than first planned. Availability was the main reason for the change from using 'trainees' to volunteers.

### **Project Staff, Workers & Volunteers**

A City staff change occurred in May 1999 at the time that the project could begin work on the ground. The change was from Rob Crouch to Valerie Lantz as Project Manager. Multnomah Youth Cooperative (MYC) and Crew Restoring the Urban Environment (CRUE) supplied youth trainees for clearing blackberry vines and planting native plants during fall and winter months of 1999.

Volunteers on Earth Day 2000 numbered 145. They represented the following groups:

*Friends of Beaver Creek* – provided lunch to volunteers.

*MCTV* – Taped event activities for news and programming on local cable access channel.

*Gresham Outlook* – Provided news paper coverage for local area.

*Boy Scout Troop 174* – Provided team leaders for showing volunteers where to plant. Also provided scouts for distributing flyers, loading plants and tools and clean-up after the event.

*Alpha High School* – Provided a group of students for berry vine removal and native plant planting.



*Centennial High School* - Provided a group of students for berry vine removal and native plant planting.

*Troutdale Grade School* - Provided a group of students for berry vine removal and native plant planting.

*City of Troutdale Parks and Facilities Division* – Provided tools, trucks and two staff members for event support.

*City of Troutdale Community Services Division* – Provided tools, truck and staff for event organization and support. Also provided 100 Earth Day 2000 T-shirts to the volunteers.

*SOLV* – Provided native plants, trash bags, wildflower seed and handouts for volunteers.

*Trout Unlimited* – Provided native plants.

*Northwest Natives* – Provided native plants at a discounted rate.

### **Project Relation to the Greenspaces Program**

This project embodies the goals of the Metropolitan Greenspaces Program by addressing a highly visible and heavily used urban park. The Sandy River is recognized as a regionally significant salmon and recreational resource. The conversion of 'waste area' into natural area increased the diversity of plant communities, wildlife habitat and improved resource values.

Involving community members through training programs and volunteer groups helped raise environmental awareness through community involvement.

### **What Worked / What Didn't / Advice for Other Project Managers**

**Labor Sources:** Labor sources proved unpredictable over a several month time period. Training programs targeting high school ages were not available during summer months. Once the school year began, scheduling difficulties continued during a three-month period. Volunteers came through in a big way to 'save the day.' Volunteer training for identifying native plants proved successful. Eagerness was high for learning native plants, especially by the Boy Scouts.

**Plants and planting:** The plant identification training for volunteers paid off well when 145 volunteers, 45 more than expected, appeared. Scouts were able to direct the volunteers where to plant and to choose appropriate species. Allowing volunteers to plant within a general area results in random spacing and a very 'natural' appearance. Some plants are planted close together, some are far apart, some are grouped with like plants and others are near unrelated plants. Fall and winter planting is better for the plants' sake but volunteers prefer planting in the spring. Conditioning people to do gardening in the

winter is an uphill battle so allowing for plant losses is more practical. Referring to blackberry vine removal as a 'PROJECT' rather than as a 'maintenance' effort is more appealing for volunteers.

**Monitoring & Maintenance Plan:** The Parks and Facilities Division and Community Services share responsibilities for monitoring and maintenance at Glenn Otto Park. Periodic maintenance will be organized and carried out as needed with scout troops, training and class activities and other community organizations. The Community Services Division organizes this type activity. The Parks and Facilities Division act as back-up and support for the volunteer effort.

Past experience has shown that Himalayan Blackberry control requires a 'cut down for control effort' a minimum of once per each of the four seasons for at least three years. Resprouting must not be allowed to grow beyond waist height or control can be lost. Current maintenance staff learned this formula during the past several years. They recognize the importance of quarterly control efforts on targeted blackberry vine areas. A preference has developed for frequent, quick, easy cutting back jobs over infrequent but difficult control methods. Replacing plant materials as needed is planned as an ongoing maintenance task. Replacing material proves more cost effective than attempting summer watering where no irrigation system is present. Some adjustment of existing irrigation heads can help survival rates where feasible.

City staff and community volunteers accomplish monitoring. Centennial High School, Reynolds High School and Sam Barlow High School each include programs for student monitoring and testing at the site. City staff has requested copies of reports made at the site.

## GLENN OTTO PARK – SANDY RIVER STREAM RESTORATION

### PLANT MATERIAL PLANTED

25	Scouler's Willow
25	Sitka Willow
25	Vine Maple
15	Red Osier Dogwood
25	Snowberry
25	Thimbleberry
25	Salmonberry
100	Sword fern
25	Ninebark
10	Red Elderberry
25	Blue Elderberry
25	Western Red Cedar
15	Oceanspray

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365 TOTAL\*

\*Count on site is higher as donations from Trout Unlimited and SOLV added more than 500 more plants on the same site. These plants were not counted as part of this grant.



**GLENN OTTO PARK - SANDY RIVER BANK RESTORATION**



**BEFORE**



GLENN OTTO PARK - SANDY RIVER BANK RESTORATION

BEFORE





**WINTER 1999 - 2000**

**GLENN OTTO PARK - SANDY RIVER BANK RESTORATION**

**EARLY SPRING 2000**





# GLENN OTTO PARK - SANDY RIVER BANK RESTORATION

WINTER, 1999-2000



SPRING 2000





# GLENN OTTO PARK - SANDY RIVER BANK RESTORATION

WINTER, 1999-2000



SPRING 2000





# GLENN OTTO PARK - SANDY RIVER BANK RESTORATION

EARTH DAY 2000 4/29





# GLENN OTTO PARK - SANDY RIVER BANK RESTORATION

EARTH DAY 2000 4/29





# GLENN OTTO PARK - SANDY RIVER BANK RESTORATION

SPRING 2000





# GLENN OTTO PARK - SANDY RIVER BANK RESTORATION

SPRING 2000

